

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric comprising:

a creped nonwoven web, said creped nonwoven web being formed from continuous splittable multicomponent thermoplastic fibers having individual segments exposed on an outer perimeter thereof;

a fibrous material comprising cellulosic fibers, said fibrous material constituting at least about 50% by weight of the fabric; and

wherein said creped nonwoven web is hydraulically entangled with said fibrous material so that said cellulosic fibers are driven into said nonwoven web.

40. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said fibrous material further contains synthetic staple fibers.

41. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 40, wherein said synthetic staple fibers comprise between about 10% to about 20% by weight of said fibrous material.

42. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 40, wherein said synthetic staple fibers have an average fiber length of between about 0.25 inches to about 0.375 inches.

43. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said multicomponent fibers have a configuration selected from the group consisting of circular, square, multilobal, ribbon, and combinations thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said multicomponent fibers comprise polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, nylon, and combinations thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said multicomponent fibers are continuous spunbonded thermoplastic fibers.

46. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said nonwoven web is also mechanically stretched in the machine direction.

47. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said nonwoven web is stretched by about 10% to about 100% of its initial length.

48. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said nonwoven web is stretched by about 25% to about 75% of its initial length.

49. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said fibrous material constitutes from about 60% to about 90% by weight of the fabric.

50. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 39, wherein said nonwoven web is bonded prior to entanglement with said fibrous material.

51. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric comprising:
a nonwoven web that contains microfolds imparted by creping, said nonwoven web being formed from continuous spunbonded multicomponent thermoplastic fibers and individual segments separated therefrom;

a fibrous material comprising pulp fibers, said fibrous material constituting at least about 50% by weight of the fabric; and

wherein said creped nonwoven web is hydraulically entangled with said fibrous material so that said pulp fibers are driven into said nonwoven web.

52. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 51, wherein said nonwoven web has also been mechanically stretched in the machine direction.

53. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 52, wherein said nonwoven web has been stretched by about 10% to about 100% of its initial length.

54. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 52, wherein said nonwoven web has been stretched by about 25% to about 75% of its initial length.

55. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 51, wherein said fibrous material constitutes from about 60% to about 90% by weight of the fabric.

56. (Previously Presented) A composite fabric as defined in claim 51, wherein said nonwoven web is bonded prior to entanglement with said fibrous material.